

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

Chief of Ordnance reflects on the Corps

(On Aug. 15 Maj. Gen. Mitchell Stevenson will turn over the reins of the Ordnance Corps to Brig. Gen. William Lenaers.)

by E. C. Starnes, U.S. Army Ordnance Corps

In 1969 Mitchell Stevenson had a close up view of Aberdeen Proving Ground. The teenage son of a career Army noncommissioned officer, the future 31st Army Chief of Ordnance, labored as a janitor with a local contractor on post. Little did he realize then that he would return someday as a major general and the chief of the Army's second largest branch.

"I still remember many of the buildings I cleaned," he recalled recently, "some of them behind the fence."

On July 25, 2000, Stevenson returned "home" and took charge of the activities in some of the buildings he used to clean, as well as becoming responsible for, in varying degrees, for Ordnance training conducted at 9 locations: the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, APG; the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Bliss, Tex.; and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Much had changed since his days as a student at local Perryville and Aberdeen High Schools. Most of the Ordnance buildings he cleaned were gone. Also, the Army and the Ordnance Corps were different than they were in the days his father served.

It was a major change for the general. "It was unlike anything I'd ever done in my career," Stevenson said.

It was also a changing time for the Army as it began a major transformation. Also, during his tour as the Chief of the Corps, the Army and the Nation have been involved in an ever-increasing war with terrorism.

The Ordnance Team and Soldier Training

When he has been asked what he feels he has accomplished as the Chief of Ordnance, the general is quick to state, "I don't think I've

accomplished much personally, rather the Ordnance team has accomplished a lot. I've tried to stress teamwork and not individualism. I think the thing that I'm most proud of, and if people remember me here, I hope that what they think of is that I was focused on quality of training."

Early on, Stevenson learned that the best way to understand what was going on in the Ordnance Corps, and especially the training arena, was to travel to where the training was actually done.

"I did a lot of traveling," he recalled. "We're a very distributed set of schools and I found there's no way you can learn about what's going on at Fort Jackson, for example, in our Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic School until you go there and see it and walk through the bays, walk through the classrooms, sit in on training, go to the barracks, eat in the dining facility, do physical training with them, get to know the cadre. And I did that

everywhere, Fort Knox, Jackson, Gordon, Redstone, Leonard Wood, Bliss, and Sill."

One result of his personal observations and travels to the various Ordnance training sites was the development and adoption of a concept plan to address the organizational structure of the Ordnance Center and Schools.

One major issue involved in the operations of the Ordnance training programs is that "We're different than any other school model. The Infantry Center and School exists at Fort Benning, period. The Armor Center and School exists at Fort Knox, period. But when you look at the Ordnance Center and Schools, then you have to talk nine locations.

"It just happens," the general explained, "that the center is co-located with one of the schools, but only one, and the scope of the commanding general's job here is much broader than just the one school that's here."

"We have two major schools, the Ordnance Mechanical

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Chief of Ordnance reflects on the Corps continued

Maintenance School here at Aberdeen, and the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School at Redstone.”

The Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School was the Ordnance School when Stevenson arrived at APG. The Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School was known as the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School. The names were changed to better reflect the actual training they do. Also, the “Center” was removed from the school title at Redstone, to reflect the fact that there is one Ordnance Center and it is the home of the Chief of Ordnance at Aberdeen.

Another change is that soldiers at both schools wear the same patch, formerly the patch of the school at Redstone.

In addition to the structure of the training institution, Stevenson also worked on the focus of training. “We tend to be very ‘initial-entry-training centric’, and we forget about a very, very important piece of our business that we collectively refer to as professional development.”

In order to work on the quality of training, Stevenson reads every end-of-course critique from every soldier who undergoes training. “I read them all, every one of them, every student. I read them and they are enormously enlightening to me.”

The general stressed that he doesn’t believe everything that a student tells him, “but it’s healthy for the faculty to believe they’re answerable to their students.”

During a visit by the American Council on Education to assess military occupational specialty training for college accreditation this focus on feedback was noted.

“As they left us here, the thing that they spoke about most, that they could not get over, was how focused all the instructors seemed to be on the quality of their instruction, and you know I just thought



Maj. Gen. Mitchell Stevenson, Chief of Ordnance, is shown passing on the Regimental Colors to retired Gen. John G. Coburn, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, during Ordnance Week 2003. Photo by Ralph Broth.

we had achieved a touchdown here. This is great stuff!” Stevenson said.

The general noted that a lot of work has been done with national institutions to recognize Ordnance training standards.

“We’ve been doing a lot of work in the area of accreditation with organizations like the American Welding Society, the Society for Automotive Excellence, the National Institute for Metalworking Skills, and the Electronics Technicians Association. Every time we’ve asked, we have successfully gotten our courses accredited. And, we’re not done yet.

“Our overall goal is that when a student graduates from an Ordnance MOS-producing course,” Stevenson explained, “he or she graduates with more than just an MOS. They get a no-kidding, nationally recognized certificate conferring upon them their credentials.”

The Army has also recognized the importance of professional certification by working with the Ordnance Corps and has begun a program to grant promotion points for such certification by national institutions.

Improvements have also been made in NCO and warrant officer training.

“We’ve instituted a couple blocks of training that I refer to as motor sergeant training and unit maintenance technician training,” the general said. “We train them all, all the unit maintenance technicians (WOs) and all the motor sergeants in the Army.”

Ordnance Vision and Levels of Maintenance

As the Chief of Ordnance, Stevenson was responsible for everything involving the Ordnance Corps, from training to personnel policies



An instructor at the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School assists soldiers training as mechanics.

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Raids, patrols in Iraq more focused, sophisticated

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7, 2003 – Improvements in the security situation in Iraq have allowed local commanders to become more focused and more sophisticated in their actions against the remnants of the former regime, Pentagon officials said today.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz, the Joint Staff operations director, and Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita expressed condolences to the families of two 1st Armored Division soldiers killed in a firefight in Baghdad and the Iraqi policemen killed in a terrorist bombing of the Jordanian embassy.

“I think it is interesting that this clearly was an action targeted at innocents,” Schwartz said of the car bombing that killed 11. “We have ... the presence of terrorists in Iraq, along with Baathists and foreign fighters and so on.”

“We will seek out, develop the best intelligence that we can and we will act on that intelligence,” the general said.

Di Rita said the coalition forces will continue offensive operations to root out these terrorists and other enemies. “The offensive operations that we have conducted over the past several weeks continue to provide some significant return,” he said. Coalition commanders say they are able to get more precise in raids because of the intelligence these operations yield, he pointed out.

Schwartz said coalition forces are continuing to track down former regime loyalists, “noncompliant forces” and common criminals. The general said that Operation Victory Bounty is tracking down members of the Saddam Fedayeen, and he announced that U.S. forces have detained more than 70 members of the group. This includes general and field-grade officers.

He said coalition forces are conducting almost 2,000 patrols per day,



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including hundreds of night patrols and patrols with Iraqi police. The way patrols have been conducted is changing, Schwartz noted.

“The notion is that we’re actually becoming more sophisticated,” he said. “In those cases where we have to conduct a more traditional raid, we will do so. In those cases where it is possible to act in a more sophisticated fashion, we will do that as well – either because we have better intelligence or we understand the environment better.”

Schwartz said that attacks against coalition personnel have “declined some” in the last three to four weeks. “My personal read is that this is a result of offensive operations of our commanders in the field ... who are engaging the mid- level Baathists, the Fedayeen and others actively,” he observed. “My read is that’s the underlying cause (to the drop).”

Di Rita said that number of attacks will “ebb and flow” but that people on the ground – coalition and Iraqi – believe the tactics are effective.

In addition to security missions, coalition civil affairs troops are making great strides throughout the country, he said. Civil affairs personnel are working to improve rail service, making hospital repairs, renovating schools and assisting farmers.



STANDING GUARD — Soldiers of the 115th Military Police Company, Rhode Island National Guard, stand guard while the rest of the unit conducts a raid in the town of Fallujah, Iraq on July 31, 2003. The 115th Military Police Company is deployed to Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Robert Liddy



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U.S. sees al-Qaida link in embassy blast

by Hrvoje Hrankjski

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network, Ansar al-Islam, may have been behind the car bombing of Jordan's embassy in Baghdad, which killed 19 people, U.S. officials said Friday.

In the latest attack on American forces, a U.S. soldier was shot and killed in western Baghdad, the military reported Friday. Also, U.S. snipers killed two men unloading weapons for sale in a market in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

American troops in Iraq have been plagued by guerrilla-style shootings and roadside bombs blamed on Saddam loyalists and other opponents of the U.S. occupation.

But Thursday's embassy bombing, in contrast, was a classic terrorist operation - and could signal a new entrant onto the scene: terror groups and foreign fighters that U.S. officials have until now said have not played a major role in anti-U.S. violence in Iraq.

Ansar al-Islam's main headquarters in northeastern Iraq near the Iranian border was wiped out in American bombing early in the war. It has been reconstituting in Iraq, with members who survived the American attack filtering back into the country from Iran, L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator of occupied Iraq, said at a recent news conference.

U.S.-run Radio Sawa, which broadcasts to the Middle East, quoted American Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz on Friday as saying American authorities were looking at Ansar al-Islam as a potential sponsor of the bombing.

Officials on Friday raised the death toll from the blast to 19. After initially reporting 11 deaths, the morgue at a nearby children's hospital where the bodies were taken raised the number by six, including two who died of injuries overnight. Two other hospitals near the embassy Friday reported one death each.

More than 50 people were wounded in the powerful explosion at the Jordanian Embassy, which set cars on fire, flung the hulk of one vehicle onto a rooftop and broke windows hundreds of yards away. On Friday, the Jordanian flag flew at half-mast as U.S. and Iraqi investigators looked through the debris for clues.

It was thought to be the first such attack since American forces took control of Baghdad April 9.

"What this shows is that in fact we have some terrorists that are operating here," Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of U.S.-led forces in Iraq, said at a news conference. "It shows we are still in a conflict zone."

Schwartz said U.S. officials didn't have any specific information linking Ansar al-Islam to the bombing but were looking for any possible link.

"That is an al Qaida-related organization and one that we are focusing



U.S. Army soldiers from the 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division guard a market place in the city of Tikrit, Iraq, Friday Aug. 8, 2003 after U.S. snipers killed two suspected gun dealers. U.S. snipers killed two Iraqi men and wounded two others who were allegedly selling weapons in a market in the center of Tikrit. U.S. forces positioned snipers around the market after hearing that weapons and ammunition was sold at the market place. (AP Photo/Murad Sezer)

attention on," Schwartz said at the Pentagon. He added, "They had, before the war, infrastructure in Iraq, and some of that remains, and our effort is focused on eliminating that."

The American soldier whose death was announced Friday was attacked Thursday night in the upscale al-Mansour neighborhood, the third American soldier reported slain in the capital in the past two days.

There were no other details of the death and his name was withheld until relatives are notified.

Since President Bush announced an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1, 56 soldiers have died in combat. The total combat casualties in the war has climbed to 170, 23 more than in the 1991 Gulf War.

In the Tikrit weapons market Friday, witnesses and military officials said the U.S. snipers killed two men and wounded two others.

Women ran screaming as they heard the shots and saw a man who was unloading AK-47 assault rifles from the trunk of a red sedan fall to the ground, according to a witness who was selling biscuits.

U.S. forces had positioned snipers around the market after hearing that weapons and ammunition were sold there every Friday, said Lt. Col. Steve Russell, whose 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, executed the operation.

"When people pick up weapons and carrying them freely, they become combatants and we will engage them," Russell said. "I think

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Powell: 'World must come together to defeat' terrorism

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7, 2003 – Recent terrorist bombings of a major hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, and at the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad underline the need for nations to unite to fight global terrorism, the

senior U.S. diplomat said here today.



These, and other terrorist acts conducted around the globe serve as a reminder that “the civilized world must come together to defeat this scourge of terrorism in whatever manner it manifests itself,” U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell told reporters gathered at the Foreign Press Center.

News reports have cited the Aug. 5 car bombing at Jakarta’s Marriott Hotel as having killed 15 people and wounding about 150. Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian terror group with links to Osama bin Laden’s al Qaeda organization, news reports say, claimed responsibility for the attack.

And that group reportedly masterminded last year’s nightclub bombing in Bali.

The global community cannot move into the 21st century “and work hard to provide hope to people as long as these kinds of incidents take place,” Powell emphasized.

Powell told reporters that he had contacted the Jordanian foreign minister to offer U.S. condolences for today’s car bombing at the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad that killed almost a dozen people, including five Iraqi security guards, and injured many more.

The United States, Powell asserted, regrets “the injuries to Jordanian personnel” caused by the bombing “as well as the loss of life of innocent Iraqi citizens who were just out in the street going about their business when this terrorist act took place.”

President Bush “has made it clear he will stay with this campaign against terrorism,” the Powell emphasized, adding, “We will unite the world” in combating terrorists.

And, Powell maintained, “a great deal of progress” has been accomplished lately in the fight against global terrorism. For example, he noted, scores of suspected terrorist operatives have been arrested in Saudi Arabia and numerous caches of weapons have been seized.

“We’ve seen similar actions in other countries,” Powell observed, noting America and its allies “will not be deterred” in continuing global anti-terror operations.

“We’ll certainly not be defeated and we’re ever more determined to

go after them wherever they are until this scourge is dealt with,” he vowed.

Although the civilized world continues to be challenged by terrorism, today is also “a time of hope and promise,” Powell observed.

For example, he noted, Iraq’s people have been freed from the yoke of a dictator. Iraqis of all ages are returning to their schools and universities. The country’s electric power is being restored, he continued, noting that “the infrastructure is being rebuilt, the economy is starting to function.”

And the recently established Iraqi Governing Council, Powell continued, “is an important first step” in returning full sovereignty to the Iraqi people.

U.S. and coalition forces won’t stay in Iraq any longer than necessary, he observed. However, those forces will remain in Iraq “long enough,” Powell emphasized, to enable the Iraqis to establish their own representative form of government that safeguards the country’s wealth for its citizens.

“We’re making good progress in that regard, even though as we see on our (TV) screens today there are still difficulties ahead,” he pointed out.

He praised U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq, noting that “they are determined to do their job and they are competent to do the job” of restoring security throughout the country.

However, Powell pointed out Saddam loyalists and other insurgents in Iraq are still “determined to deny the Iraqis their desire for peace and a better life and for a new country.”

“We will continue to deal with the security threat (in Iraq) and use whatever techniques that are appropriate,” he continued, noting that U.S. and coalition forces would adjust tactics to suit the situation.

Powell, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, observed that in time, more and more information will be gathered to pinpoint those responsible for instigating attacks on U.S. and coalition personnel in Iraq and sabotaging the country’s infrastructure.

Therefore, “slowly but surely,” he asserted, U.S., coalition and Iraqi forces “will isolate” the insurgents and stabilize the security situation in Iraq.

Turning to North Korea’s purported nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, Powell told reporters that the United States and its allies seek a peaceful solution to the issue. He also stressed there’s no credence to North Korean assertions that the United States plans an invasion.

Powell maintained there’s no chance the United States would arrange a nonaggression pact or treaty with North Korea to address its

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Warrior Sweep disposes of weapons caches

by Sgt. Keith Thompson

AYUBKHEL VALLEY, Afghanistan (Army News Service, Aug. 7, 2003) — Weapons caches containing more than 75,000 pounds of miscellaneous Russian, Chinese and Pakistani ordnance found in two caves were destroyed during Operation Warrior Sweep.

The two caches were the largest among six found by coalition forces consisting of Afghan National Army soldiers, U.S. Special Forces and 82nd Airborne Division troops Aug. 3.

The troops determined that the two were to be destroyed because of their size, said Sgt. 1st Class Charlie Holloway, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, 797th Ordnance Company.

“These caches aren’t the biggest one that have been found in theater, but they’re the biggest ones I’ve blown,” said Holloway, who added that the tunnels are believed to be part of a nearby former Taliban stronghold.

The ordnance in the caves was also traced to an improvised explosive device discovered on the road between Gardez and Khowst, said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kern, a platoon sergeant in the 82nd Airborne’s Co. A, 307th Engineer Battalion.

“This right here was a pretty sizeable shot today,” said Staff Sgt. Chuck Gross, an explosive ordnance disposal technician in the 704th Ordnance Company. “It’s not the kind of cache we find on a daily basis. Most of the stuff we find is small . . . this cave was definitely a major supply point for local anti-coalition militants.”

“If we can take the stuff out of their hands then we can basically inhibit the hostiles’ ability to attack us from this area,” Gross added.

“This entire area is a cache site,” said Capt. Jeffrey Ford, commander of the 797th Ord. Co. “These two were determined to be the most important – they had the most threat ordnance and that’s why we went after them.”

In addition to ridding anti-coalition forces of resources, blowing the caves gave Kern’s combat engineers a chance to try a new technique on the smaller of the two sites.

“We’re trying something new,” said Kern. “We’re using explosives not as powerful, but we’re using shape charges to collapse the cave.”

“To do this job you have to be part physicist, part chemist and the rest is pure ingenuity,” he said.

But the successful demolition of the caves couldn’t be accomplished without a team effort from the Afghan National Army, U.S. Special Forces and infantrymen from the 2nd Bn., 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, officials said.



Spc. Edgar Huevo (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kern, both from Co. A, 307th Eng. Bn., set up explosives in one of the weapons caches discovered Aug. 4 during Operation Warrior Sweep. Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson.

“Our job is to come out here and find any caches and destroy them,” said Capt. Tho Nguyen, Co. D, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Inf. Regt., company commander. “We also provide security for EOD. We’ve destroyed a lot of caches.”

Operation Warrior Sweep is the largest and longest combat operation by coalition forces in Afghanistan since Operation Anaconda ended in March 2002.

(Editor’s note: Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson is a journalist with the 4th Public Affairs Detachment in Afghanistan.)

Powell: ‘World must come together to defeat’ terrorism continued

concerns about invasion. However, he did say that a U.S. congressional resolution that disavows any intent of conducting such an attack could be employed to assuage the North Korean government.

He said the governments of Syria and Iran should do more to prevent terrorist organizations that operate within their borders from planning and mounting attacks to torpedo the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and from orchestrating other acts of violence and dissent across other areas of the Middle East.

And the Iraqi Governing Council, Powell emphasized, should be recognized by senior Arab leaders across the Middle East “as an important step” toward the establishment of a free, democratic Iraq.

“We are on the road in Iraq toward a representative government,” he concluded.

by Ivana Avramovic, Stars and Stripes

KAMENICA, Bosnia and Herzegovina — Russia's pullout from Kosovo peacekeeping duties forced the remaining militaries to devise a plan to fill the gap.

With just enough international troops throughout Kosovo, KFOR introduced a temporary plan: Company-size elements from different nations would cover the area, in the American-run Multinational Brigade East, for a month at a time with help of a small group of Americans stationed there.

First came Spanish troops, then French, and now U.S. soldiers are working with Austrians.

"It's a really large chunk [of area] for a company-size element," said Capt. Thomas Gustafson of 640th Military Intelligence Battalion. "It's fairly quiet, but it still has to be patrolled."

For the local population, only the KFOR uniforms and the language that the troops speak have changed.

"With us working together, it promotes [the] multinationality, multi-ethnicity theme," said Sgt. James Sparkman of the 320th Psychological Operations Company. "[A] theme that we are pushing."

The big challenge was patrolling.

American troops at Camp Kamenica help incoming soldiers get oriented, learn the roads and people.

Normally, the transition period for rotation changes is at least two weeks, but the troops in Kamenica don't have that luxury — they only get a couple of days.

American soldiers "try to straighten the learning curve a little bit" for incoming soldiers, said Capt. Jeff Hoose of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

The plan allows a small group of American soldiers at Camp Kamenica to work closely with different nations' troops for a month at a time to learn their ways and their equipment.

"It's rewarding to work with multinational units," Gustafson said. "They have many experiences to complement what we're doing here."

Austrian light infantry, for example, is better suited for the mountainous terrain around Kamenica with smaller four-wheel-drive vehicles and inexpensive pieces of equipment that allow them flexibility, he said.

While it is demanding to rotate every month from other sectors in Kosovo, there are some advantages.

U.S. and other nations take up Russia's share of patrol duties in Kosovo

"It's experience you can draw from," Hoose said. "It's a challenge, but it's also rewarding. Everything we do here is work, whether we're working or sleeping, we're building rapport."

Most of the soldiers stationed in Kamenica have worked with other nations' militaries before. For example, Hoose was in Honduras and Maj. Bill Kephart of the 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment was in Egypt during Operation Bright Star. But those were short deployments.

They hope the experience in Kosovo will help them in future joint operations. They have a head start, having learned how different militaries operate.

"I think peacekeeping support operations should not be a mission of one nation," said Austrian Maj. Manfred Prantl. "I think [joining forces] will be the future of KFOR."

In their spare time, Americans and Austrians have been learning from each other the popular sports in their home countries: football and soccer.

While the troops enjoy working together, they believe it would be easier if rotations lasted two months.

"Just as soon as they learn their area of responsibility, they're gone," Kephart said. "It forces them to learn quickly and that's a lot of pressure."

Even though some soldiers suggest that a longer rotation would be better, those left behind at the home bases eagerly await the soldiers' return.

"Everybody's short on personnel," Kephart said.

He pointed out that Austrian troops covering for Prantl's soldiers are spread thin trying to compensate for their compatriots who are now in Kamenica.



**Plan to attend the
Worldwide Ordnance
and TMDE Conference
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North Korean boats retreat after warning

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Three North Korean boats crossed into South Korean waters Friday, but retreated after the South's navy speedboats fired warning shots, South Korea said.

It was not immediately known whether the North Korean boats were military or civilian.

The South Korean navy said it spotted one North Korean vessel pulling two other boats. The vessels crossed half a mile into Southern waters off the western coast around 2:30 p.m., said an official at the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

South Korean speedboats broadcast loudspeaker warnings to retreat, but the Northern boats did not do so until the speedboats fired five machine-gun rounds and four 40mm shells, the official said on condition of anonymity.

In May, South Korea said North Korean fishing boats illegally crossed into its waters repeatedly for several days, and there have been several incidents since. Seoul is studying whether the violations were part of a North Korean attempt to escalate tensions and gain leverage in talks with the United States over its nuclear ambitions.

U.S. sees al-Qaida link in embassy blast continued

we sent out a strong message today that you cannot walk around the streets with weapons.”

Hundreds of residents watched from across the road as soldiers examined the scene and Iraqi police removed a dead body covered in a black-and-white kaffiyah headscarf near the center of the market. Soldiers said he was shot as he tried to flee with an AK-47.

Beside the red car, about 10 yards away, the earth was soaked with blood at the spot where Russell said one of the alleged arms dealers was shot in the head as he unloaded three to four rifles. Soldiers showed reporters an ID card bearing the dead man's photo that was issued in Saddam's regime as a sign of privilege for his supporters.

Curved AK-47 cartridge clips lay carefully stacked in fours on a series of seven plastic tarps laid out in the dust behind the car. A tangle of red-and-blue wires and a crude fuse-detonated bomb lay on one of the tarps.

One of the wounded men escaped, while the other was being treated for injuries at a nearby hospital, Russell said.

Jordanian officials in Amman were quick to label the bombing of their embassy an “orchestrated terrorist attack” aimed at Jordan.

Iraq's U.S.-appointed Governing Council issued a statement blaming members of Saddam's former government but making no mention of terrorism. Tensions between Jordan and Iraq have been high because of the Jordanian government's support for the U.S.-led war to oust Saddam's regime. Jordan also gave asylum last week to two of Saddam's daughters.

In Washington, Powell said the attack strengthened U.S. resolve to “unite the world in this campaign against terrorism.”

U.S. army members stand near the remains of a car in front of the Jordanian embassy in the suburbs of Baghdad August 8, 2003.

Iraqi and U.S. investigators have enough clues to track down the culprits behind the truck bomb attack on the embassy that killed 17 people and wounded scores, a senior Iraqi politician said. Reuters photo.



A U.S. Army blackhawk helicopter patrols over a market place in the city of Tikrit, Iraq, Friday Aug. 8, 2003. U.S. snipers killed two Iraqi men and wounded two others who were allegedly selling weapons in a market in the center of Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown. U.S. forces positioned snipers around the market after hearing that weapons and ammunition was sold at the market place. (AP Photo/Murad Sezer)



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Chief of Ordnance reflects on the Corps continued

to combat developments. To do so, he relied on the Ordnance Vision.

“Right after I took command, I wanted to understand what the Ordnance Vision was,” he explained. He gathered several documents which had been published and studied them to find out what they had in common.

“The thing that was most common in all the vision statements,” Stevenson noted, “was that we needed to change the way we do maintenance in the Army. The four-level maintenance system that we’ve all grown up with needed to change, and we had examples of that (change) already happening in the Army, but it was an incremental and not particularly coherent.”

There was a lot of work to do to make the vision, the goals and objectives, become reality.

“You have to do the force structure changes, submit the proposals, and you have to get the Army to buy in on it,” the general explained. “Two-level maintenance has been probably the, or one of the, defining parts of this command tour and it’s not done. But it’s on a path now to where it’s going to be awfully hard to stop, and we shouldn’t stop.”

The four levels, or echelons, of maintenance mentioned by the general consist of unit/organizational, direct support, general support and depot. The two-levels of maintenance concept essentially merges the organizational and direct support levels and the general support and depot levels.

“That’s essentially what we’ve proposed,” explained Stevenson, “but it’s more than that. It’s a differentiation between on-system maintenance and off-system maintenance; it’s a differentiation between repair and return to the user versus repair and return to supply. It’s a ‘component centric’ maintenance system and the time has come for this.

“The M-1 and the Bradley are perfect examples,” he continued, “but it’s true of our aircraft, it’s true of the Paladin, it’s also true of the Stryker, and it will be true of the Future Combat System. We are component oriented in our maintenance system and so we have to get our structure behind it and oriented in the same way.”

Stevenson noted that it has been demonstrated that you can merge organizational and direct support levels in the Force XXI division with the maneuver battalions, tank battalions and mechanized battalions.

He stated that he believes that the current force can convert to a two-level maintenance systems and it will not require a lot of investment.

“They don’t require embedded diagnostics. That would help, but it’s not necessary,” he explained. “They don’t require a lot of different types of tools and test equipment.

“We pretty much have the tools we need to get the job done, we’ve just got to make the structural changes to make it work and I think we’re on track to do that.”

A Look at the Future

Stevenson noted that the Army Objective Force will be enormously complex. “And, this business that we’re in, the maintenance business,” he stated, “is going to be more and more challenging.”

He noted that the challenge isn’t necessarily what most people think.

“It’s not like the guy who used to work on his car, as I did in the 1960s, where you lift up the hood of your car and you understood what was a carburetor and what was a distributor, and what was a spark plug and where the alternator was and all that stuff. Nowadays you open up the hood of your car and you can hardly see anything because there’s so much stuff there and you don’t know what electronic component does what and you need all this fancy test equipment. That’s not what I’m talking about [as the challenge].”

Stevenson went on to state, “We can design equipment for ease of maintenance and that’s in fact what we set about doing in the Future Combat System. It doesn’t have to be complicated to the mechanic, but clearly, we are going to have a very complex Army that thinks three dimensionally.”

He mentioned the internet as an example. “It’s amazing what our children do on the internet. How they can reach out and grab information and how they learn to get the computer to work for them to do things, and the more you do the more it seems that you can do. It just makes your head spin, the complexity of it all. I think that will be a challenge for us in the future.

“Teaching is going to be a challenge for us in the future, but I’m not worried about that. I think we’ll be okay. But, it’s going to require some evolution in the schoolhouse. Exactly what, I don’t know yet; because I haven’t seen the (Future Combat System) that we’ve got to repair. I suspect it’s going to be different that it is today and we therefore need to be different than we are today.”

The Ordnance Corps and Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom

As the second largest branch in the Army, the Ordnance Corps was very involved, and continues to be very involved, in the operations

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Chief of Ordnance reflects on the Corps continued

in Iraq.

“We are in every piece of the Army,” Stevenson said, “and so we were very involved in a big way. We have had individuals deploy to gather lessons learned for us, particularly in the area of munitions and maintenance and EOD (explosive ordnance disposal). The Ordnance Corps has done exceptionally well.

“If you were ever wondering how the 3d Infantry Division did so well in getting so far so fast and didn’t seem to have any particular maintenance problems, just imagine a duck sitting on top of the water.

“He looks very calm, but beneath him his legs are paddling like mad; that was the Ordnance Corps beneath the duck. They were paddling like mad. It was a brilliant, brilliant performance by the maintenance people.”

Stevenson also had high praise for EOD soldiers. “We’ve got two battalions of EOD in Iraq today. We’ve got another battalion in Afghanistan. It’s probably going to be that way for a while.”

“Of course, our ammo guys also did well,” he stated. “This war did not use anywhere near the amount of munitions that we heard about in Desert Storm. We learned a lot of our lessons there. We only downloaded less than 300 containers of ammunition from one of our container ships, which holds more than a couple of thousand containers and just didn’t consume a lot of ammunition. A good bit of that is already back aboard ship, being retrograded, and readied



Ordnance Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians at work in Iraq.

for the next war. Our ammunitions soldiers did very well.”

Stevenson noted that there some areas that require improvement, but overall Ordnance soldiers acquitted themselves very well, and he is very, very proud of them all.

Dr. Peter Kindsvatter contributed to this article.



Stephen Huett, ONR project manager on the LASH program, and director of the Airship Advance Development Program Office at the Naval Air Systems Command, stands in front of the helium filled airship STI at the Manassas Regional Airport Wednesday, August 6, 2003, in Virginia. The military is looking to something old to be a new weapon in the war on terrorism: The airships, equipped with cutting-edge sensors and a high-resolution camera that could scour the land and oceans, have a number of advantages over helicopters or planes. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Tuan A. Nguyen

Danger, UXO! Reserve soldier assists in unexploded ordnance disposal efforts

by Maj. R. Eschmann / Office of the Chief, U.S. Army Reserve

IRAQ — Unexploded ordnance in Iraq can be found anywhere — on streets, rooftops, schools, people's houses, playgrounds. Consequently, coalition forces and Iraqi civilians continue to be injured or die each day throughout the country.

Assisting in this crisis, explosive ordnance disposal teams are diligently working to clear Iraq of a myriad of unexploded ordnance (UXO) such as grenades, artillery shells, landmines, mortar rounds and other lethal debris and projectiles.

Some of it is so dangerous that it can be set off by motion, shadow, or even the temperature on a hot day. Adding to this hazard is that a number of these devices have been deliberately booby-trapped and silently wait for their victim, which in many cases is a child.

Additionally, some of the abandoned UXO is decades old and is highly unstable — left over from years of internal conflict and the 1991 Gulf War.

For an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Specialist, there is plenty of work in this region of the world. The work can be dangerous and

there are no second chances. Scores of this special breed of soldier have paid with their lives to protect US military members and civilians from UXO threat.

An Army Reserve soldier from the 63rd Regional Support Command in Los Alamitos, Calif., Staff Sgt. Tuan A. Nguyen was mobilized in March 2003 due to his

extensive EOD skills and training he received when he was on active duty.

Nguyen is currently attached to the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion assisting in the high-risk, high-threat, force protection UXO duty. "Our mission is clear," said Nguyen who has been in Iraq since April. "We provide weapons intelligence and expertise, clear booby trapped devices and also destroy all recovered enemy weapon systems that range from small arms to anti-aircraft to anti-tank."

Nguyen has been an Army EOD specialist since 1994 and received his training at the Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal School.



Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Tuan Nguyen prepares for the destruction of Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank blast landmines, PG-9 HEAT rockets, and other unexploded ordnance. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Burton

"My best experience is just being able to do my job in a non-permissive environment," said Nguyen. "Working in this environment gives you some added stress and helps you evaluate your skills in such circumstances." Nguyen and his family are no strangers to the stresses of conflict. His family came to the United States from Saigon, South Vietnam following the collapse of that country in 1975.

"My most recent UXO mission involved a number of hazardous duds at an Iraqi airfield. At the site were two destroyed Iraqi bombers - old Soviet aircraft - and a lot of bombs." Some of the small can-sized volatile duds Nguyen was after were situated next to 15 Soviet 3,000-kilogram bombs and another one was next to 30 Soviet 1,000-kilogram bombs. Army units in the area had no idea that they were UXOs since many of them do not look like ordnance. Military

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**The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps
&
The U.S. Army Test Measurement and Diagnostic
Equipment Product Office
Presents the Combined Worldwide Ordnance and TMDE
Conference
October 14 - 17, 2003**

The US Army Ordnance Corps and the US Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostics Equipment (TMDE) Product Management Office are sponsoring, in partnership with Tennessee Valley Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, a conference that will encompass all aspects of ground mobility, munitions, electronic and TMDE maintenance.

The Worldwide Ordnance and TMDE Conference (WOTC) unites two previously successful symposiums; the Worldwide Ammunition and Missile Maintenance Conference and the PM TMDE User/IFTE Conference. Programs for the event include future strategies, plans, and programs pertaining to sustainment of future forces, as well as planned changes to the current inventory of Army test, diagnostics and calibration equipment programs. Presentations covering all aspects of the subject support elements will be featured. We are pleased to have senior government and industry speakers as participants in the inaugural WOTC.

Every effort will be made to provide maximum exposure of products and services offered by our exhibitors to representatives of military services and commercial industry.

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Soldiers training in (OPW) 2003, which is being coordinated from Fort McCoy, have a renewed sense of purpose because of a number of military missions going on throughout the world.

Maj. Cheryl Hackett, an Army Reserve soldier with the 521st Maintenance Battalion Maintenance Operations Section of Milwaukee, Wis., said her unit is providing command and control for the program. The U.S. Army Reserve Command developed OPW

to provide hands-on training for Reserve maintenance soldiers, save money in acquiring new or upgraded vehicles and to provide updated equipment to Reserve units.

In addition to Fort McCoy, other

OPW 2003 locations are Fort Dix, N.J.; Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.; and Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa. The training rotations are scheduled to continue through August, and include the rebuilding and repair of M-931 five-ton tractors.

Paul Kastner, Directorate of Support Services Logistics analyst, said the M-931 vehicles are being cascaded by active-Army units and can be repaired in a cost-efficient manner to upgrade the Reserves 800-series tractors. OPW began earlier than usual, March 2 this year, to meet the needs to get the refurbished equipment to the field.

"The hands-on training gives them a good, overall knowledge of the equipment," Kastner said. "If they see the equipment during a deployment, they'll be confident of how it works and what the components are."

1st Lt. Dan Tilton of the 521st Maintenance Operations Section said members of the units participating in OPW, do tactical training as part of the program. Tactical training can include Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare training, Lanes Training or specific training identified by commanders, he said. Unit members all realize that orders to mobilize are possible in the future, Tilton said.

The maintenance side of OPW includes direct support (DS), which can be defined as being similar to work a mechanic would do in a commercial garage, and general support (GS), which is overhauling engines or transmissions. The mission also includes collection and classification of usable vehicle parts from old equipment that can be used to keep other vehicles running, Hackett said.

Spc. Donald Baney of the 318th Maintenance Company (GS) of State College, Pa., said the hands-on training was excellent. Pvt. Kristopher Upchurch of the 733rd Maintenance Company (DS) of Canton, Ill., said he wasn't able to use a bridgeport machine in advanced individual training to create rope ties to ship equipment.

"I learned a lot by using the equipment here," Upchurch said. "I'd



The U.S. Army Reserve Command developed Operation Platinum Wrench to provide hands-on training for Reserve maintenance soldiers, save money in acquiring new or upgraded vehicles and to provide updated equipment to Reserve units. Here, members of the 318th Maintenance Company install a valve cover gasket for a Humvee engine. (Photo by Rob Schuette)

like to have one of these at my home unit."

Spc. Juan Esquivel of the 850th Service Company (Classification and Collection) of Laredo, Texas, said he liked the fast pace and full days working on the salvage mission and creating shipping crates to send equipment to other units.

"I learned a few things from this," Esquivel said. "I can go back home and work with these parts on our own vehicles."



Bush claims Iraq 'is more secure'

by Will Lester

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) - President Bush claimed major progress in Iraq on Friday but mourned the growing loss of American lives, 100 days after he declared an end to major combat.

"We suffer when we lose life," the president said. "Our country is a country that grieves at those who sacrifice." The tally of soldiers killed over the last 100 days reached 56 Thursday night. Bush said the soldiers had been participating in a vital "part of the war on terror."

Bush spoke at his Texas ranch alongside Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld following a meeting on military strategy.

Reviewing developments in Iraq, Bush said, "We've made good progress. Iraq is more secure."

He cited the reopening of banks, improvements in Iraq's infrastructure and the stirring of democracy, which Bush said "is a major shift of system in that part of the world."

Bush would not say whether he shared the assessment of the commander of coalition forces in Iraq, Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, who said Thursday that U.S. forces will remain in Iraq at least two years.

Bush would only say "I will do what's necessary to win the war on terror." Bush said Americans have "got to understand I will not forget the lessons of Sept. 11," when America was hit with its worst ever terrorist attack.

The president also would not say whether he had an estimate on how many more soldiers would die. Nor did he answer a question on future costs of the American presence in Iraq.

Bush said he was heartened by financial and military contributions other countries were making in Iraq, and promised to present a "well thought-out" cost estimate to Congress.

"Congress will be able to ask legitimate questions like you're asking," Bush told reporters outside his ranch house, "and they'll be answered."

Bush stood in the driveway of his ranch home facing reporters with Cheney, Rumsfeld, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

On a hot and hazy day, his dog Spot did laps around Bush and his team, her tongue hanging out as she panted.

Bush said he and Cheney had gone fishing Friday morning. But he discovered, "Fish like cooler weather better than hot weather. Probably the press corps feels the same way."



President Bush, center, meets with Secretary of State Colin Powell, right, and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage at his Crawford, Texas, ranch Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2003. (AP Photo/White House Photo, Susan Sterner)

The president met with his national security team to discuss efforts to remold the military into a more mobile, responsive force to deal more effectively with world trouble spots.



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‘Screaming Eagles’ brigade commander praises troops

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8, 2003 — Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division’s 3rd Brigade are “doing a better than great” job providing security across northern and western Iraq, the brigade’s commander said today.



Speaking to reporters from Iraq via a video teleconference hookup at the Pentagon, Army Col. Michael Linnington said his soldiers understand their mission and their morale is high as they carry out stabilization operations in and around Mosul and along the Turkish and Syrian borders.

“I’m privileged to lead some of the greatest soldiers in the world - America’s finest - sons and daughters that are indeed our nation’s most precious resource,” Linnington said.

The infantry colonel observed that his troops are performing their

Danger, UXO! Reserve soldier assists in unexploded ordnance disposal efforts continued

personnel have walked and driven through the area several times, luckily without touching them,” said Nguyen. “I was glad to get rid of them before anyone got hurt.”

“Hazardous as it may seem, explosively disposing UXOs are one of the most basic tasks required of an EOD operator,” said Nguyen. However, there are times when UXOs are found near fuel points, buildings, or other areas where a high order detonation cannot be withstood. These are times when the EOD operator is required to render-safe the ordnance using EOD tools so that the hazardous components can be carried off to a proper disposal area. “At other times, we are faced with homemade bombs or improvised explosive devices which require different techniques in disposing the hazards.”

Nguyen said he doesn’t really feel the pressure of his hazardous occupation. However, he did add, “unless we are being shot at.”

Nguyen keeps his cool even when not doing EOD work. “We recently helped Iraqis who were involved in a car accident. It involved a man with a dismembered arm, a baby, and two other men with broken legs,” he said. The Army Reserve EOD specialist and some other unit members ended up transporting them to a Red Crescent field office for medical attention.

“I think that we did what we could for them as American soldiers to show that we are not there to hurt innocent people.”

Nguyen has some personal advice for soldiers soon to be deploying theater: “Make sure all of your personal business is squared away so that you can come here with a clear mind and do battle if you have to. Also don’t get complacent, it will kill you. Stay alert, don’t touch any UXO...and bring lots of anti-bug juice!

duties under “tough, sometimes dangerous, and complex conditions that most of us wouldn’t have imagined just a few short months ago.”

Linnington said his soldiers are performing their duties “willingly, without complaint, and to a high standard, despite extremes in conditions that would paralyze the average human being.”

The colonel noted that the 101st has been operating out of northern Iraq since mid-April, having crossed the Kuwaiti border March 21 and covering 1,200 kilometers “fighting in five major cities” during the major combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The “Screaming Eagles” now reside in an agricultural area along the Tigris River “centered on the northern city of Mosul,” Linnington said.

The 3rd Brigade, Linnington noted, operates “in the far western portion” of the 101st’s area of responsibility. He said his unit’s operations encompass 15,000 square kilometers of mostly farmland, including 220 kilometers along the Iraqi- Syrian border.

There are still remnants of Saddam Hussein loyalists and other insurgents operating in the 3rd Brigade’s area, Linnington said. In the past two weeks, he said, the 101st has lost six soldiers to enemy action, including two 3rd Brigade soldiers killed by rocket-propelled grenade attacks.

Linnington said his troops remain watchful for any additional enemy assaults, while always keeping “the initiative in disrupting enemy forces that want to disrupt the stability of northern Iraq or threaten the lives and welfare of American soldiers.”

Security, the colonel declared, “is our number-one priority.”

Linnington said his soldiers control two border crossing points, one with Syria and the other with Turkey. He said his troops also guard access to Iraq’s Freedom Dam on the Tigris River northwest of Mosul, which provides irrigation and drinking water for farmers and residents in the region.

He described his area of operations as “a mosaic” of ethnicity that includes Turkomen, Arabs, Kurds, Christians, and other groups, that’s “not unlike what we have in many large cities across America.”

Many successes have been achieved throughout his region in recent months, Linnington pointed out, noting the establishment of “an effective and efficient” working government in Mosul. District elections have been held in many of the larger sub-districts, he added, with many more slated in coming weeks.

Multi-ethnic Iraqi police and security forces have recently been trained, Linnington noted. While in the West, coalition forces are training a new Iraqi border force “that will help create a safe and secure environment.”

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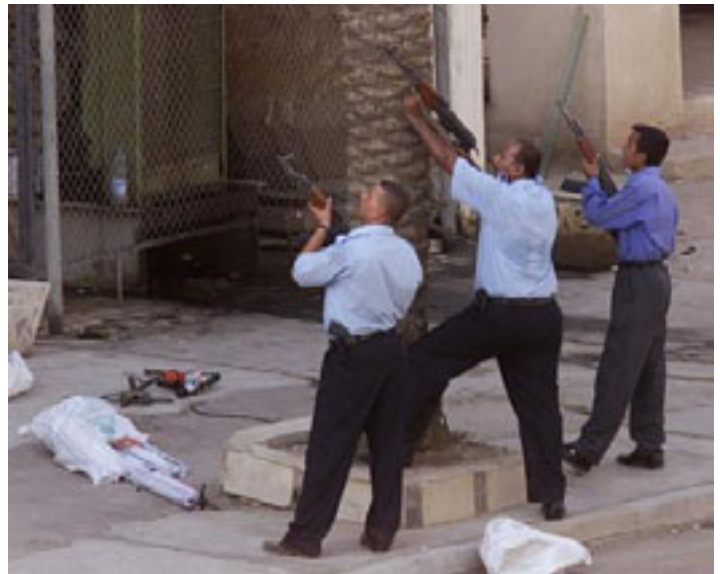


Nigerian peacekeeping soldiers wave to the jubilant crowds that lined the streets of the Liberian capital Monrovia, as peacekeeping forces toured the city Thursday, Aug 7, 2003. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)



Smoke rises from a Palestinian building after an explosion during a gun battle between Israeli troops and Hamas gunmen in the Askar refugee camp in the West Bank city of Nablus August 8, 2003. Two Hamas militants and an Israeli soldier were killed in the raid. Reuters photo.

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Working with the U.S. military, Iraqi policemen take aim on windows of the Warkaa Investment Bank in the center of Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, August 8, 2003, during a stand-off with a group of armed Iraqis. The Iraqis had escaped by the time the U.S. soldiers entered the building. (AP Photo/ Sergei Grits)



Army Reserve Maj. Brian Golden folds a flag that flew at the Pentagon on Memorial Day 2003 as part of a Memorial Day remembrance. He was among reservists and National Guardsmen honored recently at the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting and Exhibition in San Francisco. In civilian life, Golden is a Massachusetts state representative. Photo courtesy of Rep. Brian Golden

‘Screaming Eagles’ brigade commander praises troops continued

Trade with Syria and Iraq has been opened, he said, and sales of weapons in local marketplaces have been discouraged and broken up.

U.S. and coalition security and stabilization efforts within northern Iraq have caused an influx of foreign investment, including a \$14 million package to renovate a major Mosul hotel to stimulate regional business and tourism, the colonel said.

The 101st Division, he added, “has poured over \$11 million into repairs of infrastructure, banks, schools, police stations, hospitals,

medical clinics” and irrigation and water projects. Courthouses and telecommunications sites, he pointed out, have also benefited from the influx of funds.

Summing up, Linnington said the “Screaming Eagles” are “working hard across the board to improve the quality of life of the average Iraqi citizen.”

“It’s encouraging to see our newly-elected (Iraqi) officials not only endorsing our efforts, but helping us identify the areas of need where our programs can be best targeted,” the colonel said.